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19 December 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation on the Chapter IX with Al Munn

1. At his earlier suggestion, I had lunch today with Al Munn to discuss the background of the Army memorandum to [REDACTED] proposing a reduction in Chapter IX production from eight units to six units per year. Munn stated first that the memo represented but one part of the overall ACSI attitude toward the NIS, which was one of retrenchment. The attitude was initially generated some three years ago by a Colonel Persons who as Chief of Tech Division set about to stimulate greater allocations of funds for intelligence relating to hardware, at the expense of NIS funds. He interested a number of people in the idea through appealing to their knowledge of the existing gaps in hardware intelligence. Although Persons subsequently departed for an assignment in Europe, the ball continued to roll among the higher echelons of Army. As Munn understands it, the subsequent report of the JCS Colonel who made the field survey trip with [REDACTED] recommended that NIS production be increased (except for the Chapter IX, for which the recommendation was abolishment). However, the anti-NIS movement in Army appears to be strong enough to indicate a possible Army nonconcurrence in the report.

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2. Munn stated that at present Minogue is under orders to reduce Army NIS expenditures across the board. Minogue is strongly against this action but has been forced to take steps that will show implementation. In the case of the Chapter II, he is able to point to some savings in the scheduling of the Section 20 and in the amount of Ordnance effort. More recently, there has also been the development of a proposed cutback in NIS Annual work. In the case of the Chapter IX, Minogue tried to show progress by referring to savings that would result from use of the new Chapter IX outline. However, he was unable to come up with anything impressive enough. He has thus taken the only action that remained, and has recommended a cutback in unit production (the amount of which is entirely arbitrary).

3. Munn feels that the fix Minogue is in is substantially one of his own making; that his petty-bureaucrat (phrase mine, not Munn's) approach has acted to divert attention from the real significance of the program. His personality has also created irritations among the

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military, which irritations inevitably attached themselves also to the NIS effort. Finally, there has been no mature representation of the NIS Program as a concept which would keep changing senior officers properly informed and influenced.

4. Munn does not know what Minogue's reaction would be to an NIS Committee consensus that overruled his proposal. It would depend on whether he was willing, and can, sell to his superiors the idea that Army must be responsive to overall Intelligence Community needs and views. Since the current emphasis in Army is on Army production, properly labeled, Munn feels that Minogue would have no hesitancy about an implementation of his proposal that created a double-shelving of a Chapter IX product in both its old and new forms.

5. Munn feels that the remainder of the memo proposing a reduction in Chapter IX production is essentially meaningless; that Minogue simply likes to restate things whether they need restating or not.

6. Munn explained the earlier Army proposal for an NIS supplement on geodesy, which would appear to be opposed to the idea of cutback, by the fact that it represented Army's felt need to keep one-up on the Air Force in this subject. He said that Army therefore continues to be interested in a development of something of the sort. He noted, in addition, that the negative attitude toward the NIS was by no means a final Army position but essentially represented that of ACSI. Other offices, including Army Research Office, have yet to be coordinated with and different views are likely to be found among them.

7. The Coordination Staff is currently working with Munn on the new outlines for Army sections of the Chapter IX. It appears that some rectifications of overly-detailed content are in order, and these may ultimately provide a basis of savings that Minogue can claim in substitution for the reduction in unit production.

  
Chief, Geography Division

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